

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, RH, AU

SUBJECT: RHODESIA'S REVEREND SITHOLE VISITS AUSTRIA

1. ZIMBABWE NATIONAL AFRICAN UNION LEADER REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE TOLD AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS JULY 5 THAT THE WEST IS MORALLY OBLIGATED TO SUPPORT THE RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HE ASSERTED THAT THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED POLITICALLY AND THE TURNOVER OF POLITICAL POWER IRREVERSIBLE. HE EXPECTED GUERRILLA WARFARE TO SUBSIDE EVENTUALLY BUT WOULD NOT RULE OUT A POSSIBLE INVASION OF ZIMBABWE, WHICH HE SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD OPPOSE WITH ALL MEANS AND WOULD DEFEAT.

2. SITHOLE SAID RECENT MASSACRES OF MISSIONARIES AND THEIR FAMILIES REFLECTED THE FRUSTRATIONS OF NKOMO AND MUGABE, WHO FIGHT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, NOT THE COUNTRY, AND ARE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED BECAUSE THE MOTIVATION FOR GUERRILLA ACTIVITY HAS BEEN REMOVED BY THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT MOST GUERRILLAS ACCEPT.

3. SITHOLE WAS RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR AND
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POLITICAL PARTY OFFICIALS, BUT NOT BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY AS HE REPORTEDLY HAD HOPED. MFA AFRICAN SECTION DIRECTOR SAID SITHOLE TOOK THE SAME LINE WITH PAHR THAT HE HAD TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND INDICATED ALSO OPTIMISM THAT SOME AFRICAN STATES WOULD EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND RESULTANT GOVERNMENT. MFA SOURCE THOUGHT SITHOLE MADE A PARTICULARLY GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIS AUSTRIAN

INTERLOCUTORS AND THE PUBLIC.

4. COMMENT: SITHOLE'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN MOST AUSTRIAN PAPERS, WHICH ONLY DAYS BEFORE HAD PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF RECENT MURDERS OF MISSIONARIES, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN. THIS JUXTAPOSITION

AND THE EMPHASIS SITHOLE PLACED ON GUARANTEEING A FUTURE FOR WHITES AS WELL AS BLACKS IN A DEMOCRATIC ZAMBABWE RE-ENFORCED GENERALLY POSITIVE AUSTRIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WOLF

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